

WARREN COUNTY
OFFICE OF THE COUNTY ADMINISTRATOR

WARREN COUNTY MUNICIPAL CENTER
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Dear Chairman Geraghty:

When the Board of Supervisors hired me in March 2018 to be your County Administrator, I was excited to tackle the challenges that faced our County and its government. As I did the job day to day, I returned home every night with the peace and satisfaction that only comes in knowing that one's time and energy is well spent, and I truly loved the work.

Things changed for me last year. As you and your colleagues know, I became a father. I learned quickly that parenthood reorients your daily life as well as your future hopes, dreams and priorities. I love public service. But I love my daughter and my wife so much more. I have therefore made a decision to return to the private sector because it is the right thing to do for my family.

I leave public service with a great deal of pride in what we have accomplished over the past four-plus years. Fundamentally, I'm a budget and finance man. My overriding priority as your County Administrator has been helping our department heads improve services while ensuring financial stability and predictability for our taxpayers. Since I have been here, our unassigned General Fund balance has increased every year, by a total of 88 percent, from 19.5 million dollars at the close of 2017 to 36.6 million dollars at the close of 2021. We've achieved compliance with our Fund Balance Policy years before we thought we would. At the same time, we've decreased the county property tax rate from \$3.99 to \$3.90 per thousand dollars of assessed value. And we've maintained the lowest sales tax rate in New York State.

We have done all of these things while expanding services to the public, most notably to those vulnerable citizens who need county government the most. From our Public Defender's Office to the Department of Social Services, the Employment & Training Administration, the Probation Department and the Veterans' Services Administration, we have launched new programs aimed at bettering the lives of those who need a helping hand so they can share in the growing prosperity of this wonderful county we call home.

We also experienced the greatest challenge to local government in a hundred years: the COVID-19 pandemic. The early days were frightening, not knowing the toll the pandemic would take and whether our local economy would survive. Looking back, we can say with pride that far better than surviving, we thrived. We've consistently maintained one of the lowest infection rates and highest vaccination rates in the state. The 2020 summer season was the best we'd ever

had, the 2021 season was even better, and the trends so far this year indicate we will break last year's records. Our Public Health Department and our local businesses set the standard statewide for pandemic operations. If you don't believe me, ask the administrations of two governors: Andrew Cuomo and Kathy Hochul. They won't tell you that Warren County was one of the best. They will tell you we were the very best.

I realized within the first several months of assuming my duties that our department heads in Warren County are among the greatest you will find in New York State. This is the third county in which I've played a leadership role, so I do have a basis for making that judgment. When I walked through the door, our department heads were already an excellent group. Since then, we have made extraordinary additions. I am so proud of DPW Superintendent Kevin Hajos, Employment & Training Director Liza Ochsendorf, Weights & Measures Director Jeff Woodell, Emergency Services Director Ann Marie Mason, County Attorney Larry Elmen, and Public Defender Greg Canale. They have all improved their departments and set an ambitious course for this county's future.

Our 800+ employees are also incredible. They are the lifeblood of our government, and I am proud to have had them all as colleagues. I particularly want to single out my deputy Tammie Delorenzo, our Public Affairs Director Don Lehman, and my assistant Kristy Miller. They are the most capable individuals with whom I've had the honor of serving, and I will miss them very much.

I will also miss serving with the Board of Supervisors. I consider many of you supervisors to be friends. I respect all of you and your various talents. You each bring unique strengths to the table, and your collective strengths effectuate good results for the people. I urge you to always keep that in mind. Although you disagree at times on how to get there, you all share the same end goal of making Warren County the best place it can be, and taking care of our neighbors. It takes a lot to run for public office, much less serve in public office. As you all know, the rewards are few and the work is difficult. Every single one of you deserve credit for putting yourselves out there and doing your best for this community. I thank you for giving me the honor of serving the people of Warren County as their County Administrator.

I also thank you in particular, Kevin, for guiding me throughout my tenure. As my predecessor in this position and as a person who has occupied leadership roles every year since, from Personnel Chair, to Budget Officer, to Tourism Chair, to Chair of the Board, you have been an ever-present partner in doing good work for the people of Warren County.

With deep appreciation and thanks for the opportunity to serve, I hereby resign the position of Warren County Administrator effective August 2, 2022.

Very truly yours,



Ryan R. Moore
County Administrator